

FISCAL NOTE
SB 2591 - HB 2628

February 5, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes a program for *teaching as a second career* as an alternative method of licensure to prepare professional individuals with expertise in teaching areas of critical shortage to teach in Tennessee schools. The Commissioner of Education would be required to implement this program on the basis of competitive grants to higher education institutions in partnership with school systems. Local school systems would be required to nominate individuals to participate in the program. Nominated individuals must have expertise in and be willing to teach in shortage areas as identified by the State Board of Education. If the individual receives a positive evaluation following the first year of teaching, the individual will be issued an apprentice license. The State Board of Education is required to establish guidelines for the program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

To the extent the Department of Education is required to implement this program on the basis of competitive grants, state expenditures are estimated to increase. Such increase would depend on the number of grants given and the amount of such grants, which cannot be determined, but is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

For information purposes, several Tennessee higher education institutions and the Department of Education are already working together to provide an alternative licensure (*Alternative C* license) which appears to meet the requirements set out by this bill (Tennessee also offers *Alternative A* and *Alternative E* licenses). However, there are no competitive grants to these institutions under the current arrangement. Several public universities with teacher training programs offer the *Alternative C* license. For example, the Tennessee Board of Regents offers an *Alternative C* license in reading through its Online Degree Program, and the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Knoxville also offer this license. To be eligible for the program, candidates must be recruited by local school systems and receive a letter from the Director of Schools indicating an intent to hire. The maximum number of course hours per program varies by institution but all include a pre-service session before the first year of teaching. Some private institutions are making preparations to be a part of the current program without the incentive grants. In addition, the State Board of Education adopted a revised *Alternative Preparation for Licensure Policy* on August 23, 2003.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director